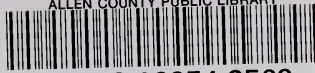


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ADDRESSES DELIVERED
AT THE
FORMAL PRESENTATION
OF THE
PORTRAITS OF THE GOVERNORS
OF
DELAWARE
TO THE STATE,

THURSDAY, MAY 26th, 1898.

STATE CAPITOL,
DOVER, DELAWARE.

1776.

INDEX OF EXERCISES.

Presentation Exercises.

State Capitol. ❧ ❧

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DELAWARE
GOVERNORS.

Dover, Delaware.

Thursday, May 26th,

1898. ❧ ❧ ❧

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1881

1881

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1881

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

A joint committee consisting of Hezekiah Harrington, Speaker of the Senate, Emory B. Riffin, Speaker of the House, John Pyle member of the Senate and Benjamin A. Hazell and J. Frank Eliason, members of the House, was appointed by authority of a joint resolution, adopted by the General Assembly on May 19th, 1898, to arrange for the presentation, with appropriate exercises, to the State of Delaware, of the portraits of the Governors of the State which by previous arrangement, had been procured from various sources.

The programme as arranged by the committee for Thursday, May 26th, 1898, was as follows, and the exercises were attended by a large audience which completely filled the Hall of the House of Representatives, all parts of the State being represented in the assemblage.

HON. EBE W. TUNNELL, Governor of Delaware.	Presiding
MUSIC (Grace Orchestra, of Wilmington)	E. A. BRILL, Conductor
OVERTURE, Bohemian Girl,	Balfe
INVOCATION,	REV. CHARLES A. HILL
SELECTION, Serenade,	Herbert
HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE GOVERNORS OF DELAWARE—	
New Castle County,	HENRY C. CONRAD, Esq
Kent County,	HON. JAMES PENNEWILL
Sussex County,	CHARLES W. WHILEY, Jr., Esq
SELECTION, National Airs,	Moses
PRESENTATION OF PORTRAITS,	HON. BENJAMIN A. HAZELL
ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE,	HON. THOMAS F. BAYARD

INVOCATION.

By Rev. CHARLES A. HILL.

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we rejoice that we may draw near to Thee and ask Thy blessing upon this convocation of the people of this State.

We acknowledge Thee as the Author of every good and perfect gift. Our fathers have told us of Thy mercies. Be pleased to inspire us with Thy spirit that we may continue to remember the blessings of the Lord and to forget not all His benefits.

We thank Thee that during the strife and struggle of our Colonial history, during the changes in the proprietary over these three "lower counties," Thine eye was upon them for good, and Thy power made and preserved them a separate Commonwealth.

We thank Thee that having erected these colonies into sovereign and independent States, Thou didst confer upon this State the very great honor of leading the way, at the head of the grand column of the thirteen States in the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

We thank Thee for those eminent statesmen who, in Thy good providence, have been furnished by this Commonwealth to the National Government, and who have either directed its affairs at Washington or have conducted important missions in its interests at the seat of other governments in other lands.

We thank Thee for the long line of able and upright men who have represented this State in the councils of the nation.

We thank Thee for the fair and impartial administration of our laws, and for the conscientious men, profoundly

learned in the law, who have presided over our courts of justice.

We thank Thee for the many distinguished citizens who have been called on to govern this Commonwealth; we thank Thee for the rectitude of their lives and for the nobility and purity of their administrations. We thank Thee that Thou didst put it into the hearts of Thy servants to decorate these venerable walls with these pictures of those honored men, so that they may be had in perpetual remembrance; may their integrity and virtues be emulated by those who, coming after them, shall be called on to fill important places in the affairs of this State.

Bless, we pray Thee, not only our State, but the Nation; bless not only Thy servant the Governor of this State, but Thy servant the President of the United States.

“Long may our land be bright
With freedom’s holy light.”

Since we have taken up the cause of the down-trodden and oppressed, may the military and naval forces of the Republic be victorious in the shock of battle with the oppressor, and may liberty be the heritage even of the islands of the sea. Be our God. Glorify Thyself with us, and at last, in mercy save us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADDRESSES.

Governors from New Castle County.

By HENRY C. CONRAD, Esq.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Interested as I am in historical matters it is a source of very great gratification to me to be present and participate in this interesting occasion.

The remodeling of our State Capitol, made necessary by the increased representation in our General Assembly, provided by the new Constitution, made a fitting time to suggest the hanging on the walls of this venerable building the faces of the men, who from the formation of Delaware as a separate State in 1776 have been called to the helm and who have guided the Ship of State safely through the billows of one hundred and twenty-two years.

I take this opportunity of congratulating everybody who has in any way contributed to the success of this undertaking, and particularly are we under obligations to the living descendants of our long line of Governors, who responded so kindly and generously to the requests made to them, whereby to-day we have assurances that in the collection of Governors' portraits the State will have the face of every Governor of whom there is a portrait in existence.

The pleasant task has been accorded me of introducing to you the line of Governors, who were elected from New Castle county, and without further preliminaries I will give you a brief outline of their lives and services.

JOHN McKINLY.

The first President or Governor of Delaware was John McKinly. He was born in Ireland, February 24th, 1721, and came to Wilmington about 1742 or 1743. He was a Presbyterian in religion and was a medical doctor or "Practitioner in Physic," as it was then called. He was married about 1761 to Miss Jane Richardson. Was sheriff of New Castle county by appointment of Governor William Denny from 1757 to 1760. From 1759 (excepting three years) was continually Chief Burgess of Wilmington for fifteen years; and on February 21st, 1777, was elected the first President of Delaware. Served until September 11th, 1777, the night after the battle of Brandywine, when the British swooped down on Wilmington and took him prisoner. He was held in captivity until October 1778, more than a year, and was then exchanged. In December 1782 he filed a statement showing that he sustained loss in damage to his property of £1.055. The original statement and affidavit are now in the museum of the Lenox Library in New York city. He was Brigadier-General of the State Militia during the Revolution. He was one of the founders of the Delaware Medical Society in 1789 and a conspicuous member of the society during the rest of his life. In 1789 was one of the trustees named in the certificate of incorporation of the First Presbyterian Church and continued a trustee until his death. He lived at the northwest corner of Third and French streets, in the City of Wilmington, where he had a handsome mansion and grounds. He died August 31st, 1796, and is buried in the grave yard of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington.

There is no portrait in existence of John McKinly, so that it is impossible to have him included in the collection of to-day.

THOMAS McKEAN.

The second President or Governor of Delaware was Thomas McKean. At the time President McKinly was taken prisoner, McKean was Speaker of the Assembly. George Read was Speaker of the Council, and as such, Vice-president of the State, and entitled to succeed McKinly as acting President, but Read was sitting in Philadelphia as a

member of Congress, and as the west shore of the Delaware was infested with the British forces, Read encountered great difficulty in getting back to Delaware. In the meantime, McKean acted as President, serving a little more than a month from September 11th, 1777, to about October 20th, 1777, when Read, having been re-elected Speaker of the Council, assumed the Presidency and served until the election of Caesar Rodney in March 1778.

Thomas McKean was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, March 19th, 1734. He received a liberal education, beginning at the New London Academy, and adopting the profession of law, pursued his studies under David Finney, Esq., of New Castle. He was admitted to the bar in 1754. In 1762 he was elected to the Delaware Assembly and continued in that office for seventeen years, although for the last six years of that time he was a resident of Pennsylvania. For twelve years from 1764 he was one of the trustees of the loan office for New Castle county. He was elected to the Stamp Act Congress that met in New York in 1765. He was a member of Congress from 1774 to 1783, and was the only man that served uninterruptedly in that body from the beginning to the end of the Revolutionary war.

From 1777 to 1783 he was not only a member of Congress from Delaware, but also Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, which position he occupied for twenty-two years, serving both States in the dual capacities with marked ability and satisfaction. He was President of Congress in 1781. Was a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Delaware and through his efforts the vote of Delaware was cast in favor of the Declaration. Served in the Revolutionary war as Colonel of the Philadelphia Associators. Was a member of the convention that formed the first Constitution of the State of Delaware in 1776 and also a member of the convention that formed the first Constitution of Pennsylvania in 1790. Was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1799 and served nine years. At the end of his term he retired from office permanently, and died June 24th, 1817, in his eighty-fourth year. He was buried in Christ Church yard in Philadelphia.

In writing to a friend about the time he was acting as President of Delaware, he says: "I have had my full share of the anxiety, cares and trouble of the present war. For some time I was obliged to act as President for the State of Delaware, and Chief Justice of this. General Howe had just landed (August, 1777) at the head of Elk River, when I undertook to discharge these two important trusts. The consequence was to be hunted like a fox by the enemy, and envied by those who ought to have been my friends. I was compelled to move my family five times in a few months, and at last, fixed them in a little log house on the banks of the Susquehanna, more than a hundred miles from this place; but safety was not to be found there, for they were soon obliged to remove again, on account of the incursions of the Indians."

In a letter to John Adams, dated June 1812, he remarks: "Three years ago I shook hands with the world, and we said farewell to each other; the toys and rattles of childhood would, in a few years more be probably as suited to me as office, honor or wealth; but (thank God) the faculties of my mind, are, as yet, little if anything impaired, and my affections and friendships remain unshaken. Since my exemption from official and professional duties I have enjoyed a tranquility, never (during a long protracted life) heretofore experienced; and my health and comforts are sufficient for a moderate man."

GEORGE READ.

The third President or Governor of Delaware was George Read, who was born in Cecil county, Maryland, September 18th, 1733, being the eldest of six brothers. His father was John Read, who soon after George's birth came to Delaware and settled near Christiana Bridge. Was educated at Chester and the New London Academy. In 1749 began the study of law with John Moland, Esquire, of Philadelphia, and was admitted to the bar in 1753, when only 19 years old. On March 6th, 1754 came to New Castle and entered upon the practice of law. In 1763 was appointed Attorney General, the first for Delaware alone, succeeding John Ross; and he served until 1775. In 1765 took his seat in the General Assembly of Delaware and served continually

for twelve years. In 1774 was elected to Congress with McKean and Rodney, and with the exception of a few months, while he acted as President or Governor, was a member of Congress. He did not vote for the Declaration of Independence, but afterwards zealously and earnestly supported it. In September 1776 was President of the convention that formed the first Constitution of the State of Delaware. Was offered the first Presidency of the State but declined it. In October 1777, was Vice President of the State, being the Speaker of the Council and succeeded President McKinly and became acting President. At that time he was a member of Congress, Speaker of the Council and acting President or Governor. He acted as President from October 1777 to March 1778, when Caesar Rodney was elected President in place of John McKinly, who was still held a prisoner by the British. In 1782 George Read was appointed Justice of the Court of Appeals in Admiralty cases, and this position was held by him until the abolition of the court. In 1786 was elected by the General Assembly a delegate to the convention at Annapolis, relative to the formation of a system of Commercial Regulations for the Union. In 1787 was a member of the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He and Richard Bassett were the first two United States Senators from Delaware, taking their seats March 4th, 1789. He continued in the Senate until September 18th, 1793, when he resigned to accept the Chief Justiceship of the State that had been tendered him by Governor Joshua Clayton. Continued in the office of Chief Justice until his death, September 21st, 1798.

He lived at New Castle and is buried in the Immanuel Church graveyard. He married Gertrude Ross, daughter of Reverend George Ross, rector of Immanuel Church at New Castle, and sister of George Ross, a signer of the Declaration from Pennsylvania.

Several excellent portraits of George Read have been preserved and through the courtesy and generosity of the Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia, a handsome crayon portrait of Governor George Read will hereafter grace the walls of the State Capitol.

JOHN DICKINSON.

The fifth President or Governor and the fourth from New Castle county was John Dickinson, who was elected by the General Assembly of the State on November 13th, 1781, and assumed the duties at once. He served until November 4th, 1782, when he was elected President of the executive council of Pennsylvania, and asked to be relieved from the Presidency of Delaware. John Cook who was speaker of the council acted as governor from November 4th, 1782, until January 28th, 1783, when John Dickinson's resignation was accepted and he formally retired.

John Dickinson was the son of Samuel Dickinson and was born on the family plantation in Talbot county, Maryland, November 8th, 1732. In 1740 he removed with his father's family to a large farm just east of Dover, where his boyhood was spent and the rudiments of knowledge taught him by William Killen, an Irish lad, who had drifted to Delaware, and became a member of the Dickinson household. William Killen afterwards became a distinguished member of the Delaware Bar and in turn Chief Justice and Chancellor.

John Dickinson, after being well educated, began, when eighteen years of age, the study of the law with John Moland, a leading member of the Philadelphia Bar. After Dickinson's admission to the bar he took a three years course as a student at law in the Middle Temple in London, where he doubtless received the training whereby he was afterwards enabled to prepare and publish the brilliant and forcible State papers, which are recognized as containing the ablest arguments produced at that time, and gave him a high place among the galaxy of distinguished statesmen of the Revolutionary period. Settling in Philadelphia he was elected a member of the Assembly in 1764, and a member of Congress in 1765. Was a delegate to Congress from Delaware from 1774 to 1777, and again from 1779 to 1780. He opposed the Declaration of Independence, but afterwards attested his patriotism by enlisting in the army, serving as a private in the battle of Brandywine, and a few days after that battle he was appointed a brigadier general of the State militia, but served only a few months. Was a member from Delaware

of the convention that formed the first constitution of the United States. For three years from 1782 to 1785 he served as President of Pennsylvania. In 1801 an edition of his collected writings, which had attracted great attention, was published in Wilmington. He died February 14th, 1808, at his home in Wilmington, which occupied the site of the present Institute Free Library and he was buried in the graveyard adjoining the Friends Meeting at Fourth and West Streets in Wilmington.

In a letter of condolence written a few days after his death by Thomas Jefferson, he says, "A more estimable man or truer patriot could not have left us; his name will be consecrated in history as one of the worthies of the Revolution."

Again we are under obligations to the Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia, through whose liberality a portrait of Governor Dickinson is presented to-day.

NICHOLAS VAN DYKE.

The seventh President and fifth from New Castle county was Nicholas Van Dyke, who was elected President by the General Assembly on February 1st, 1783, by a vote of eighteen to twelve. Was sworn in on February 8th, 1783, and served three years. He had been a member of the Council in 1776, and in 1779 was its Speaker, and was a member of the convention that formed the first constitution of the State in 1776.

He was born in New Castle, September 25, 1738, being the son of Nicholas Van Dyke, who had come to Delaware from Flatbush, L. I., and was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia in 1765, and presumably was admitted earlier in Delaware. On February 21st, 1777, was elected by the General Assembly, Judge of Admiralty, and the same day he and James Sykes were elected representatives from Delaware in the Continental Congress. He served in Congress for several years. Was twice married. His son Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., was afterwards a distinguished lawyer and member of Congress from this State, and his oldest daughter, Nancy, married Chancellor Kensey Johns, the elder.

He died February 19th, 1789, aged fifty-one years, and

was buried on his farm in St. Georges Hundred, just south of Delaware City.

No known portrait of Nicholas Van Dyke exists.

JOSHUA CLAYTON.

Joshua Clayton, the ninth President of the State, and the sixth from New Castle county, was the son of James Clayton, who was a descendant of a Joshua Clayton, who came over with Penn. and settled on Bohemia Manor in Cecil county, Maryland, where Joshua the Governor was born in 1744. His mother was Rachel McCleary, an adopted daughter of Governor Richard Bassett. He studied medicine, and after his marriage settled on the Locust Grove Farm, about two miles west of Mount Pleasant Station in St. Georges Hundred. On January 6th, 1776, in the Bohemia Battalion of the Maryland Regiment appears the name of Dr. Joshua Clayton, who was chosen the second major of the battalion. This regiment was intended for home protection and defence, but continued as such for a short time only, when most of the members entered the Continental Army. Clayton participated in the battle of Brandywine, at which time it is said, he was an aid to General Washington, who commissioned him colonel and placed him on his staff in order to make a good appearance when receiving the sword of General Howe, whom he expected to capture at that place. He was said to have been the handsomest man on General Washington's staff. He was elected a member of the House of Assembly 1785 and 1787. Was elected State Treasurer June 24th, 1786. On the death of Governor Thomas Collins, he was on May 30th, 1789, elected by the General Assembly for the unexpired term and served as such until January 13th, 1793, when he took his seat as the first Governor of Delaware under the constitution of 1792, having been elected by the people in November, 1792, over Thomas Montgomery by a majority of three hundred and seven. He was Governor of Delaware six years and a half, being the longest term that any individual has held that office. Two years after his retirement from the Governorship he was elected United States Senator, on January 19th, 1798, but held the office for only a few months as his death occurred on August 11th, of the

same year. During the prevalence of the yellow fever in Philadelphia, in the summer of 1798, he was called into consultation with the leading physicians of that place, and while there contracted the fever and fell a victim to it. He was buried on his home farm, but afterwards was buried at the Bethel graveyard, along the line of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, where a substantial tomb marks his last resting place. He left three sons, Richard, James L., and Thomas, the latter afterwards becoming Chief Justice of Delaware and United States Senator; and the large and influential family of Claytons, that for generations have been numbered amongst our best citizens, are the descendents of the Governor.

Through the kindness of several of these descendents, the State is this day formally presented with a handsome oil portrait of Governor Clayton.

GUNNING BEDFORD.

The tenth Governor of Delaware and the seventh from New Castle county was Gunning Bedford, who was elected by the people and assumed the duties of the office on January 13th, 1796, as the successor of Governor Joshua Clayton.

Gunning Bedford was the son of William Bedford a substantial land owner, who lived in New Castle Hundred, and the grandson of Gunning Bedford. The family came either from New Jersey or Pennsylvania. Governor Gunning Bedford was born on the 7th day of April, 1742. He acted as major in the Delaware militia, his commission bearing date March 20th, 1775, and under date of January 19th, 1776, was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of Colonel John Haslet's Delaware Regiment. He took an active part in the New Jersey campaign in the summer of 1776, and was wounded in the battle of White Plains while leading his regiment. Did not remain long in the active service and on his return to Delaware in 1779 was appointed Prothonotary of New Castle county. Was admitted to the bar in Sussex county on August 4th, 1779, although always living in the town of New Castle. Was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1784, 1785 and 1786. Was twice a mem-

ber of the Privy Council, being elected in 1783 and in 1790. Was appointed Register of Wills for New Castle county February 25th, 1788, and a Justice of the Peace January 24th, 1789. Was a member of the Continental Congress in 1786 and 1787. Was chosen one of the first Presidential Electors in 1788, and cast his vote for George Washington for President. On January 13th, 1796, he took his seat as Governor and served in that office until September 30th, 1797, when he died.

He married in 1769 Mary Read, a sister of George Read, the signer. The older members of the Read family were greatly opposed to the match, but in the end they became reconciled and the marriage turned out to be a happy one. He had no children, and at his death his nearest relative was a sister, Anne Catharine, who married Colonel John Stockton, who was the father of Major Thomas Stockton, afterwards one of the governors of Delaware. Governor Bedford is buried near the Read lot in the Immanuel churchyard at New Castle, and his tomb contains the following epitaph: "Endeared to all that knew him by the amiable qualities of the heart; in his life, high in the esteem of the wise, the good, and the patriotic; in his death lamented by every friend to merit, truth and virtue."

One portrait of Governor Bedford has been preserved, and a copy in crayon is presented to-day by the Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia.

JOHN CLARK.

After the death of Gunning Bedford there was a lapse of nearly twenty years before New Castle county was again represented in the governorship. At the election held in the fall of 1816, John Clark, Federalist, was elected Governor over Manaan Bull, Democrat, by a majority of four hundred and ninety-one. John Clark was the nineteenth Governor of Delaware, and the eighth from New Castle county. John Clark was the son of William Clark, who commanded a company at the battle of Monmouth in the Revolution and who, tradition says, was a good and a brave soldier. William Clark lived in the old Mansion House, which is still standing

at Rothwell's Landing on Duck Creek, in Appoquinimink Hundred. John Clark became owner of the farm at the death of his father and always followed the quiet pursuits of a husbandman. He married Sarah Cook, daughter of John Cook, one of the Governors of Delaware from Kent county, and of this marriage was born a daughter, who married Pennell Corbit, of Odessa. Sarah Corbit, child of this marriage, married Anthony M. Higgins, the father of ex-Senator Anthony Higgins, who in this way is the great grandson of Governor John Clark. John Clark Higgins, the present United States Consul at Dundee, Scotland, was named for Governor Clark and is also his great grandson. Governor Clark resigned from the governor's office a few days before the end of his constitutional term in January, 1820. As far as is known, he held no other office except the governorship. He died August 14th, 1821, and is buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard near Smyrna.

As far as known no portrait is in existence of Governor John Clark.

CHARLES THOMAS.

Charles Thomas was the twenty-fourth Governor of Delaware and the ninth from New Castle county. He was the son of Charles Thomas, a large land owner in Red Lion Hundred, who lived in Dragon Neck, where John C. Clark afterwards built his Mansion House, but Thomas, the elder, afterwards built the large and imposing house at the corner of Front and Harmony Streets in New Castle, where for many years he lived and afterwards died. His mother was Susanna McCalmont, of the old and prominent family of that name who lived at New Port. Charles Thomas, the Governor, was born in Red Lion Hundred, June 23rd, 1790. He was educated at Princeton College, studied law under George Read, Jr., and was admitted to the bar in 1813. In 1817 was elected to the House of Representatives, and in 1821 to the State Senate, and was at the session of the Senate in 1823 elected Speaker. On June 20th, 1823, by virtue of his office as Speaker of the Senate he became Governor by reason of the death of Governor Joseph Haslet, and acted as such until the following January, when he was succeeded by Governor

life afterwards, neither did he figure as an active practitioner at the bar. He was a man of fine literary attainments and a Samuel Paynter. Charles Thomas never appeared in public great reader, and lived the life of a retired gentleman, having come into large wealth through both his father and wife. He had one daughter, Eliza Thomas, who died only a few weeks ago in Wilmington, and she, I believe, was the last member of the Thomas family. Governor Thomas is buried in the Presbyterian graveyard at New Castle. He died February 8th, 1848. I have been unable to locate a portrait of Governor Thomas, and I am satisfied there is none in existence.

CALEB P. BENNETT.

Caleb P. Bennett the twenty-seventh Governor of Delaware and the tenth from New Castle county, was born November 11th, 1758, in Chester county, Pennsylvania. His father was Captain Joseph Bennett, who moved from Chester county to Wilmington in 1761, and lived for years in the old West House at the northwest corner of Fifth and West Streets. He was a shipping merchant and owned and sailed a vessel to India. He was the first Burgess of Wilmington after it became a borough. Governor Bennett's grandmother was Mary Boone, a sister of the famous Daniel Boone, the Kentucky hunter. Both of his parents were birthright members of Birmingham Friends Meeting, near the Pennsylvania State line.

At the age of seventeen young Bennett was placed by his father in the ranks as a private soldier, where he served a year and was then made a sergeant; was commissioned ensign in Captain Thomas Holland's Company of David Halls' Regiment, April 5th, 1777, fought at Brandywine, was wounded at Germantown, October 4th, 1777, made Second Lieutenant August 16th, 1778 and First Lieutenant April, 1780, and served to the close of the war. Was at Valley Forge during the trying winter of 1777 and '78. Was present at the siege of Yorktown, and in command of a battery on the day that Cornwallis surrendered. Was commissioned Major of the Delaware State Militia, and was in command of the forces at New Castle during the war of 1812. Was Treasurer of New

Castle county from 1807 to 1832, and on November 13th, 1832, was elected Governor of Delaware as a Jackson Democrat over Dr. Arnold Naudain, Republican, by a majority of fifty-seven votes. He took the oath of office in January, 1833, and served until the 11th day of July, 1836, when he died.

An obituary published at the time of his death says: "He was a kind and affectionate husband, a tender and indulgent father, an active and useful citizen, and above all a patriot, whose devotion to the welfare, prosperity and independence of his country knew no bounds and felt no sacrifice." He wore until his death low shoes, silver knee and shoe buckles, long silk stockings, white kid breeches, velvet coat and brass buttons, ruffled bosom, powdered hair and cue.

He lived for years at what is now No. 841 Market Street, and from there was buried with military honors. His grave is in the graveyard of the Friends Meeting at Fourth and West Streets, not very far from that of his illustrious predecessor in the same office, John Dickinson, who was buried there twenty-eight years before.

Mrs. Gheretein Y. Pyle has kindly loaned the State for this occasion a handsome oil painting of Governor Bennett, painted by herself. A copy of the same will in the near future, I hope, be presented to the State by descendants of the Governor.

THOMAS STOCKTON.

Thomas Stockton was the twenty-ninth Governor of Delaware and the eleventh from New Castle county. He was born April 1st, 1781. Was the oldest son of John Stockton, who made an enviable record in the war of the Revolution and also served as Brigadier General of the State Militia in the war of 1812, being in command when the British landed at the head of Elk. His mother was Ann Griffith, and his wife was Fidelia Rogerson Johns, daughter of Chancellor Kensey Johns, the elder, whom he married June 2nd, 1804. Thomas Stockton after being educated at Princeton College settled in New Castle, where he lived ever afterwards. On January 4th, 1810, he was appointed Prothonotary of New Castle county by Governor George Truitt, but resigned the office on October 7th, 1812, to join the Delaware Volun-

teers. Was shortly afterwards commissioned a Captain in the United States Army, and proceeded to the Canadian frontier, where he distinguished himself in the battle of Fort George. In 1814 was in command of the American forces at Lewes, and rose to the rank of Major. He remained in the army until 1825 when he returned to New Castle. On January 18th, 1832, was appointed Register in Chancery for New Castle county and held that office until June 1st, 1835. In November, 1844, was elected Governor over William Tharp, by a majority of forty-four. After being in the office but a year and two months he died suddenly on March 2nd, 1846, and was buried in Immanuel Churchyard at New Castle. He was the father of six children, some of whom still survive. His son Thomas Stockton, Jr., graduated at West Point about 1827, and his son James Stockton served in an Ohio Regiment under General Rosecrans in the Civil war. The family have shown a wonderful military spirit, the seventh generation being represented in the present war with Spain.

I regret that I am not able to present on behalf of the relatives of Governor Stockton, his portrait to the State, but I have the assurance that a portrait will be forthcoming in the near future.

JOHN P. COCHRAN.

John P. Cochran was the fortieth Governor of Delaware and the twelfth from New Castle county. From the election of Thomas Stockton in 1844 no Governor was chosen from New Castle county until 1874, a period of fully thirty years. John P. Cochran was born in Appoquinimink Hundred, February 7th, 1809. He comes from a Scotch-Irish family who came to De'aware from Cecil county, Maryland. He was raised on a farm and with the exception of a few years spent in mercantile pursuits has lived constantly on a farm and devoted himself to agriculture. Endowed by nature with the best endowments a man can have good, strong common sense, coupled with energy and industry, he succeeded because he deserved to succeed. By dint of his own exertions he became one of the largest land owners and most successful agriculturists in the State. He was always an ardent Demo-

crat and active in politics, although seldom in office. He was elected to the Levy Court for New Castle county and served two terms from 1838 to 1846.

In 1874 his name was brought forward as the Democratic candidate for Governor, and was elected by a majority of 1239 votes over Dr. Isaac Jump, his Republican opponent. He served as Governor from January, 1875, to January, 1879, and his administration was progressive and successful. While he was Governor a State Board of Education was formed, and for the first time a State Superintendent of Free Schools was provided for, and these new features tended to infuse new life and vigor into the educational affairs of the State, and the same have continued to improve during the years that have elapsed since that time. He made a wise choice in the selection of James H. Groves as the first Superintendent of Schools, and he also showed judgment and wisdom in the appointment of the late Joseph P. Comegys as Chief Justice on the death of Chief Justice Gilpin in 1876.

The fullness of years have been given to Governor Cochran and he is still "in the flesh" and present on this occasion, the only living ex-Governor from New Castle county.

As an evidence of his good will he presents to-day to the State a pastel portrait of himself, which will remain here, we hope, long after his earthly career is ended.

BENJAMIN T. BIGGS.

Benjamin T. Biggs was the forty-third Governor of Delaware and the thirteenth and last from New Castle county. His father John Biggs was a farmer, and was born in Cecil county, but resided most of his life in Pencader Hundred in this State, where the son was born October 1st, 1821. He was educated in the public schools of the neighborhood and afterwards at the New Jersey Conference Academy and Wesleyan University. He settled on a farm in early life and spent his life at farming and fruit culture, at both of which he was very successful. He early showed marked ability as a public speaker; this tendency was first developed at the Country Debating Society, and afterwards naturally drew

him into public assemblies and political life. There are many here to-day who can recall how popular he was as a public speaker, and how apt he was in touching the popular chord in his public addresses. He was known as "Major Biggs," having been commissioned as Major by Governor Temple during the Mexican War. In 1852 he was a leading member of the State Constitutional Convention called for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the State, but whose labors went for naught. Up to the year 1854 he was a Whig in politics, but afterwards was a Democrat. In 1860 he was the Democratic candidate for Representative in Congress but was defeated by George P. Fisher. In 1868 he was again the Democratic candidate for the same office and was successful, being re-elected in 1870, serving altogether four years in the Halls of Congress. In 1877 he left his farm and moved to Middletown, where he built a handsome home and lived afterwards. In 1886 he was elected Governor over James R. Hoffecker, Temperance Reform candidate, by a majority of over 11,000, and served the full term, retiring in 1891. He died December 25th, 1893, and will always be remembered as an affable gentleman of large public spirit, loyal to his friends, and an enthusiastic Delawarean.

By the courtesy of his son, the Hon. John Biggs, a crayon portrait of Governor Biggs is this day presented to the State.

[CONCLUSION.]

Thus briefly have I outlined the lives and services of the thirteen men who have been called from New Castle county to preside over the destinies of our little State. They were not all great men, although some of them measured up in point of intellectuality to the greatest that the State has produced. Six of them were lawyers, although no lawyer has been Governor for sixty years; two were medical doctors, two military men, and three farmers. As usual New Castle county failed to keep up with her two sister counties; for while there have been thirteen governors from New Castle, there have been sixteen from Kent, and eighteen from Sussex. From the formation of the State, Wilmington has contributed

only three Governors to the State, and the last Governor elected from Wilmington was Major Caleb P. Bennett, who took his seat in 1833. There is not a name in this list of Governors of whom I am ashamed. They were human, and their lives doubtless, showed the same human frailties which is the lot of us all, but altogether they were men who loved their State, and sought in all honorable ways to advance her interests, and maintain her integrity and high standing among the sisterhood of States. As we gaze upon the faces of eight of these worthy men, whose portraits are embraced in the collection that is formally presented to-day, we ought one and all, to be infused with the thought that :

“A time like this demands
Strong minds; great hearts; true faith, and ready
hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor, men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue and scorn his
treacherous flattery without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking.”

Governors from Kent County.

By HON. JAMES PENNEWILL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

There could be but few more interesting subjects for discussion than the lives and characters of the Governors of this State from Kent county, and it would be very gratifying to be able to speak more fully upon the subject than the time allotted will permit on this occasion. To refer, even briefly, to the sixteen Governors with whom I have to deal, in the space of thirty minutes, will require not only the greatest possible compression and condensation, but also rapid reading.

CÆSAR RODNEY.

It would be impossible, for example, to adequately sketch under the circumstances, the life and character of our first Chief Executive from this county, Caesar Rodney. It is not, however, necessary that I should do more than state a very few facts respecting the history of this eminent citizen, and I do this only for the sake of uniformity in these pages. The record of his life is most fittingly and permanently preserved in our national and State histories, and necessarily so, because no narrative of the war of Independence, and of the times immediately preceding and subsequent thereto, could be complete without some account of this remarkable man. It is doubtless true that the history of no one of the great men of this State is more familiar to our people than that of Caesar Rodney, and this is due in a large measure to the admirable address delivered in Dover a few years ago by the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard on the occasion of the unveiling of the Rodney monument. It is said that Caesar Rodney, the eldest son of Caesar, and the grandson of William Rodney,

was born in St. Jones' Neck, near Dover, in Kent county, Delaware, in 1728, and died at his residence at Poplar Grove in the same neighborhood June 26th, 1784. He was a very active member of the Continental Congress, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Major General in the war of the Revolution, several times a member of the Assembly and Speaker of the Council of the State, and the first Chief Executive of Delaware from Kent county.

Under our first Constitution and up to 1792, the title of the Chief Executive of the State was "President of the Delaware State;" and in March, 1778, the President of the State, being, as the record states, in the hands of the British, and Mr. Reid, who was acting in his stead, requesting to be relieved of the duties, Caesar Rodney was elected by the Legislature President for the then constitutional term of three years. Time will not permit me to enumerate the many other positions of honor and trust held by him during his useful and busy life. It must suffice to say that a large part of that life was filled with the most responsible duties and crowded with the highest honors.

JOHN COOK.

John Cook was born in 1730 and died at or near Smyrna in 1789. He was at one time the owner of the tract of land upon which "Belmont Hall" is erected, situated just south of the town of Smyrna, and now owned by Mrs. Caroline E. Speakman, who is the great granddaughter of John Cook.

John Cook lived for many years in or near Smyrna, and was the possessor of considerable real estate in that locality. He was elected High Sheriff of Kent county in 1772, was a member of the first Assembly of the State in 1776, and a member of the committee consisting of McKean, Robinson and himself, of the Assembly, and Sykes and VanDyke of the Council appointed October 28th, 1776, to devise a great seal for the State. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and one of the judges of the State in those trying times of the nation's history. His wife was related to Thomas Collins who became Governor of the State, and one of his daughters was the wife of John Clark, who also became Governor.

Another of his daughters was the wife of Ebenezer Cloak, and another the wife of Israel Peterson. His eldest son was Dr. Robert Cook, who married as his first wife a daughter of Judge Samuel White; his second wife was the sister of Governor Rogers.

On January 14th, 1783, John Dickinson resigned his office of President of Delaware State, and turned over the administration thereof to John Cook, Speaker of the Council, who continued to exercise the duties of the position till February 1st, 1783, when Nicholas VanDyke was elected to the office.

THOMAS COLLINS.

Thomas Collins was born in 1772 and died March 29th, 1789, at Smyrna. He was High Sheriff of Kent county, member of the first Assembly in 1776, and President of the State from 1786 to 1789. He was also a member of the Council of Safety, an officer of the militia, a member of the new Constitutional Convention, and Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He is said to have organized and maintained at his own expense a brigade during the Revolution. He owned a considerable quantity of real estate in and around Smyrna, and among other lands, the tract upon which "Belmont Hall" before mentioned is erected, he having purchased the land in 1771 from John Moore. As before stated, the same land was formerly owned by John Cook, another Governor of the State, and is now owned by Mrs. Caroline E. Speakman, the great granddaughter of John Cook. "Belmont Hall" is one of the oldest houses in the county and is said to have been first built in 1753. It was, however, very greatly remodeled and improved, if not practically rebuilt by Thomas Collins when it came into his possession. Governor Collins was a very prominent man in the early history of Delaware, and particularly active in the war of the Revolution; and in those times his services were valuable both to the State and nation.

RICHARD BASSETT.

Richard Bassett was born in 1775 and died in 1815. His daughter was the wife of the Hon. James A. Bayard.

He was a man of such conspicuous ability and great prominence in his day, that his life has been very fully and fittingly recorded in many historical works, and it is not at all necessary that much should be said respecting him in this paper. He was an officer in the Continental army, a member of the State Council from 1776 to 1786, a member of the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, and one of the first United States Senators from Delaware. He was Chief Justice of the State from 1793 to 1798, and was elected Governor in 1798 for the term of three years, but in 1801 resigned the office. His Secretary of State was Abraham Ridgely, of Kent county.

Governor Bassett was a man of large fortune and generous nature. He had three homes, one in Wilmington, one in Dover, and one in the Bohemia Manor, and entertained very extensively and hospitably, his heart being, as was said, as large as his mansion. He was an active member and strong supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and much interested in its growth and extension. His is one of the names of which the people of the State feel proud, and rightfully so, for he was an able lawyer, an upright judge, an eminent statesman and a splendid man. His messages to the Legislature were wonderfully clear, thoughtful and practical, and the one of January 9th, 1801, is peculiarly interesting because it shows that nearly a hundred years ago the law relative to "judgment bonds" in this State was, as it has been ever since, the subject of much discussion. In reference to that matter the Governor said: "I have also heretofore attempted to draw your attention to the subject of judgment bonds, and being more than ever persuaded that their existence is pregnant with evils, and highly ruinous to many of the citizens of the State, calculated to give a false and improper credit, and undue advantages by one creditor over another oftentimes more just, induces me to persist in wishing them done away with. I am well aware that there are a description of traders as well as some other monied characters who do not approve of my sentiments on this subject. But be that as it may, the question with me, and I should suppose, with every rational mind, is what is

best for the citizens generally. And conceiving as I do, I am neither afraid or ashamed to declare and affirm, that in my opinion, and I believe the opinion of a large majority of the people of the State, they ought to have been done away with long ago."

JAMES SYKES.

Dr James Sykes was born March 27th, 1761, in the vicinity of Dover, and died in that town October 28th, 1822. He was educated mainly in Dover and Wilmington, and was a student under Dr. Clayton. He began his professional career in Cambridge, Md., where he resided for a few years, and while at that place married the daughter of Robert Goldsborough. He soon returned to Dover, and in the course of time enjoyed an extensive practice, and became eminent in his profession. His reputation as a physician and surgeon became very great and extended beyond the limits of his State. He was thus encouraged to move to the city of New York and pursue his profession in a wider field, but the success anticipated was not realized, and he returned to Dover to spend the remainder of his life.

Dr. Sykes was a very conspicuous and influential man in politics as well as in his profession, and was several times a member of the State Senate. He succeeded to the office of Governor in 1801 by reason of the resignation of Governor Bassett, and continued to act as Governor till the qualification of his successor, David Hall, in January, 1802. Abraham Ridgely, of Kent county, was his Secretary of State. The wife of the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard is the great, great granddaughter of Dr. James Sykes.

Dr. Sykes was a man of fine presence and engaging manners. His face, speech and bearing inspired much confidence in his patients, and the writer was told only a few days ago by Mr. Manlove Hayes, one of Dover's most prominent citizens, and whose mother was a first cousin of Dr. Sykes, that he distinctly remembers being attended in sickness when he was but five years old by Dr. Sykes, and has not forgotten, after a lapse of three-quarters of a century, his wonderfully pleasant and winsome manner. Dr. Sykes and his wife were each at different times the owners of the property in Dover

adjoining the State House and known as the "Jump" or "Clayton" mansion, and Mrs. Sykes after the death of her husband conveyed the same to the Hon. John M. Clayton.

GEORGE TRUITT.

George Truitt who was Governor from 1808 to 1811, was born in 1756 and lived and died near the town of Felton. His Secretary of State was Thomas Clayton, of Kent county. He owned a tract of land near Felton which was a part of a larger tract that for a great many years was known as "Burberry's Berry." Upon the part that was in recent years held by the widow of Rev. John Downham, ex-Governor Truitt is buried, and the following inscription upon his tombstone tells about all we know of the life and character of the man, viz.: "This marble covers all that was mortal of George Truitt, Esquire, formerly Governor of the State of Delaware, who departed this life on the 8th of October, 1818, aged 62 years. This distinguished citizen, in the various public stations to which he was called by the voice of his country, always evinced that probity and fidelity which belong to the soul of the genuine patriot; and his actions as a public man, will live in the archives of Delaware, to attest to his usefulness, when this perishable marble shall have been mouldered into dust. As a man and citizen he was happy in possessing the esteem and confidence of a wide circle of acquaintances; and while society deploras his loss, as one of the worthiest of men, his family and friends greatly mindful of his virtues, mourn his departure as the keenest dispensation of Eternal Goodness."

JACOB STOUT.

Jacob Stout was born in Little Creek Hundred, in Kent county, near Leipsic, in 1764, and lived in the same locality till his death in 1855; being at the time of his death 91 years of age. His wife, Angelica, was the daughter of Chancellor Killen. Our present Chancellor, Hon. John R. Nicholson, is the great grandson of Jacob Stout.

Jacob Stout became Governor of the State under the following circumstances, viz: Henry Molliston who was elected Governor in 1819, having died before the time arrived

to enter into office, and the Constitution then existing making no provision for such a contingency. John Clark who was then Governor, submitted to the Legislature his resignation, his object being as he stated, "to obviate as far as lies in my power any difficulties or embarrassments that might arise in the existing state of things caused by the unfortunate event of the death of the Governor-elect." Jacob Stout being at the time Speaker of the Senate then became Governor in January, 1820, and continued in the office for about one year, when John Collins succeeded him. His Secretary of State was Henry M. Ridgely, of Kent county.

In 1822 Governor Stout was appointed Lay Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held for some years. He was a very active man in his time, and an exceedingly successful and enterprising farmer. His constant aim was to improve his many farms and bring them to a state of high cultivation. It is said that he would always reside on the poorest farm he had in order that he might be the better able to improve it. He believed in planting trees, and it is said that there are trees now standing in Leipsic that were set by his own hands. Perhaps the greatest enterprise he ever attempted was that in which he and Thomas Clayton were jointly and equally interested, and which had for its object the reclaiming of a large tract of marsh land known as "Kent Island." They had such faith in the success of the undertaking that they erected immense banks, dykes and gates as barriers against the sea, and expended each a very large amount of money in the work; but all their efforts came to naught, for a great storm soon followed, and swept away the works they had constructed at such enormous cost and their money and labor were entirely lost.

CHARLES POLK.

Charles Polk was born near Bridgeville, Sussex county, November 14th, 1788, and died near Milford, in Kent county, October 27th, 1857. He married Mary Purnell, of Berlin, Md., had fifteen children, nine of whom survive him, including ex-Register of Wills William A. Polk, Dr. Charles G. Polk, late Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., and Theodore A. Polk,

who are still living. Charles, who became Governor, was the son of Charles, and the fourth in the family line of that name. His father having died when the boy was of very tender years, his mother's great piety and intellectual strength were to the son of inestimable value.

Charles Polk read law with Kensey Johns, Sr., but never actively engaged in the practice of his profession. About the year 1816 he moved to Kent county, became the owner of a tract of land of 1,100 acres, situated along the Delaware bay shore near Milford, upon which he resided for many years, and at the time of his death, and which land is still held in the family undivided.

He was a member of the Legislature from Sussex county in 1813 and 1815, and from Kent county soon thereafter. He was elected Governor in 1826 by the Federal party over David Hazzard, and was a member of the State Senate in 1832 and Speaker thereof in 1836, when by the death of Governor Bennett he again became Governor. He was appointed Register of Wills for Kent county in 1843; was President of the Constitutional Convention of 1831 and Collector of the Port of Wilmington about 1850.

Governor Polk was one of the most prominent and active men in the State, exceedingly affable and engaging in his manner, of strikingly handsome appearance, and regarded as a man of pure mind and sterling integrity. He was in politics at first a Federalist and afterwards an enthusiastic Whig, and a strong friend, intimate companion and zealous supporter of John M. Clayton, whom he made his Secretary of State, and by whom he was thoroughly liked and trusted.

CORNELIUS P. COMEGYS.

Cornelius P. Comegys who was Governor of Delaware from 1837 to 1841, was the son of Cornelius Comegys, who actively participated in the Revolutionary war, and whose ancestors settled on the Chester River in Maryland about the middle of the seventeenth century. Cornelius P. Comegys was first married to Ann, the daughter of Benjamin Blackiston, of Duck Creek Hundred, who lived but a short time. He afterwards married Ruhamah, the daughter of John

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Marin, who lived near Dover, and in 1804 they moved to the family seat of the Marins, and lived for many years on a farm in that locality, a few miles from the town of Dover. Before he became Governor, Mr. Comegys was a Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Adjutant General in the war of 1812, and after the termination of that conflict with Great Britain he was employed mainly in the business of farming. He held many positions of honor and trust in the State besides that of Governor. He was more than once unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and had the honor to be a member of the committee that was appointed by the Legislature to present a testimonial to Captain Jacob Jones, and also of the committee selected to carry into effect the resolution of the Legislature passed in honor of Delaware's naval hero, Commodore McDonough, after his victory over the British on Lake Champlain. He was for some time cashier and State director of the Farmers' Bank at Dover; State Treasurer for several years, and in 1836 was elected Governor by the Whig party. His Secretary of State was Charles Marin of Kent county. He died at Dover, January 27th, 1851, leaving several children to survive him, and among the number were the Hon. Joseph P. Comegys, who arose to eminence at the bar and distinction upon the bench, and was Chief Justice of the State; Benjamin B. Comegys, who has attained to positions of great honor and responsibility and acquired an enviable reputation in the city of Philadelphia; Cornelius G. Comegys, who has made a splendid name and record in the field of medicine and education in the city of Cincinnati, and and Dr. John M. Comegys, a highly respected citizen of the town of Dover.

It may be very truly said that Governor Comegys was faithful in every official position, honest in every act, and generous and kindly in every feeling. He was considered a very fair type of the open-handed and free-hearted people who have made this Peninsula celebrated for its good cheer and hospitality. He belonged to a family that was strong and vigorous, both mentally and physically, and which has made a splendid and lasting impression upon the history of the State.

WILLIAM TEMPLE.

William Temple was born February 28th, 1814, in Queen Anne's county, Md., and resided there until he was about 18 years of age, when he removed to Smyrna, Delaware, and engaged in the mercantile business. His business rapidly increased, and in a few years became very extensive. Very early in his career he became intensely interested in politics and espoused with all earnestness of his nature the principles of the Whig party, and with that party continued to be actively identified so long as it existed as a political organization. When but a little more than twenty-one years of age he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of this State from Kent county, and was repeatedly re-elected to that branch of the Legislature and later to the State Senate. In 1846 while Speaker of the House of Representatives, Governor Stockton died, and was succeeded by Joseph Maull, who was at the time Speaker of the Senate. Governor Maull lived but a short time after his succession to the gubernatorial office, and upon his death William Temple became Governor, and continued in office until William Tharp succeeded him in 1847. He appointed George P. Fisher, of Kent county, his Secretary.

Governor Temple was elected in 1862 by the Democratic party Representative in Congress, but died in May, 1863, before he had taken his seat. R. L. Temple, Esq., a prominent member of the Philadelphia bar, is a son of Governor Temple. Governor Temple was a man of rare business talents and social qualities, and was eminently popular with a very large and ever widening circle of friends and acquaintances. I quote from a well merited tribute to his memory published at the time of his death the following words: "He was emphatically a man of the world, possessing those rare qualities calculated to win every man and repel none. Frank, generous, familiar and courteous, he possessed the key to unlock the hearts of men and blend their interests with his in the prosecution of the public interest. There was nothing mean or little about him. His views were large and his heart was as generous as ever pulsated in the human bosom. If he had any enemies he felt no animosities towards them,

for he never spoke resentfully or illiberally of any one. Certainly he was a very pure minded, honorable man, a man of soul and feeling, a friend of all and a great help to many in times of need."

WILLIAM THARP.

William Tharp was born November 27, 1803, and died January 1, 1865. He was the great grandson of John Tharp of Sussex county, England, who settled in Kent county, Delaware, in its early history, and his was one of the oldest families of the county. William Tharp had several children, who married and settled in the town of Milford and its vicinity, one of whom was Ruth, the mother of ex-Governor William T. Watson. He was born near Farmington in Kent county, and there resided at the time he was elected Governor. When elected Governor he moved to Milford, at which place he lived during the remainder of his life. He was defeated in 1844 for the office of Governor by Major Thomas Stockton, the Whig candidate, and among his supporters at this election was his grandfather, Beniah Fleming, who cast a ballot for his grandson, William Tharp. Some years before that time he was defeated by William Roe for the office of State Senator by a majority of one or two votes, and during his campaign against Stockton there was a song much used at political meetings by the opposite party, the chorus of which was in part as follows: "How can he beat Stockton if he couldn't beat Roe, Hurrah for the Delaware soldier." Governor Stockton died during his term and William Tharp was elected to the office by the Democratic party in 1846. His Secretary of State was Daniel M. Bates of Kent county.

Governor Tharp was the owner of a large quantity of land, much of which was cleared up and improved under his own supervision, and he was regarded as a very successful and progressive farmer. He was considered a strong man naturally, and was a very substantial citizen. He was prominent and popular in his community, highly respected by his people, and his life was useful and successful.

WILLIAM BURTON.

William Burton was born October 16, 1789, and died August 5, 1866. His father, John Burton, who was a farmer in very comfortable circumstances near Milford in Kent county, married Mary Vaughn, who after the death of her husband, John Burton, was married to Robert Frame, the father of the eminent lawyer of the same name. Governor Burton spent his early life on his father's farm and obtained his early education at the schools near his home. He adopted the profession of medicine and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. After practicing his profession at Lewes for a short time he removed to Milford, where he resided the remainder of his life. By his second wife, Ann C. Hill, he had one child, who became the wife of Alfred R. Wootten, who was Attorney General of the State and the father of the wife of Hon. David T. Marvel.

William Burton was elected Sheriff in 1830; defeated in 1854 for the office of Governor by the "Know Nothing" party, but was elected Governor in 1858 by the Democratic party which succeeded in defeating the Peoples party in that year by a majority of about two hundred. He selected Edward Ridgely of Kent county as his Secretary. The term of Governor Burton extended into the stirring times of the civil war, and his personal and official influence were exerted at first for the maintenance of peace, but when it was evident that peace was impossible, the same influence and effort were directed to the preservation of the Union, while at the same time guarding, as far as possible, what he considered to be the rights and dignity of the State. He retired from the office in 1863 beloved by many and highly respected. And it may be truly said that whether in official station or in private life, he commanded the approbation and esteem of his people, and left a record and a name of which his descendants may well be proud.

GOVE SAULSBURY.

Dr. Gove Saulsbury, who was Governor of the State from March, 1865, to January, 1871, was born in Mispillion hundred in this county, March 29, 1815. His father was William Saulsbury, a prominent and highly respected citizen,

and his mother was a daughter of Captain Thomas Smith, and regarded as a woman of unusual strength of mind and character, and much loved and esteemed for her great piety.

Dr. Saulsbury obtained his education in the local schools, and in Delaware College and the University of Pennsylvania. He began the practice of medicine in Dover, and resided in that place thereafter till his death. He was in 1862 elected to the State Senate by the Democratic party, and at the second session of his term was made Speaker. His party conceded him leadership in the Legislature, as elsewhere, and in his judgment on all important political questions his followers reposed the most implicit confidence. He was ardently devoted to politics, and eminently successful as a political leader. On March 1, 1865, Governor William Cannon died, and Dr. Saulsbury, who was at the time Speaker of the State Senate, succeeded to the office of Governor; and was in 1866 elected to the same office for the full term of four years. He appointed as his Secretary Custis W. Wright of Sussex county.

Dr. Saulsbury was a man of strong will and most positive convictions. He felt strongly, spoke plainly, and acted fearlessly. By natural strength of mind and body, combined with industry and determination, he arose to distinction in his profession, and by the exercise of rare political sagacity, firmness and discretion, he became the recognized leader of his party in the county, and was sent many times as a delegate to Democratic National Conventions. He died July 31, 1881, leaving to survive him but one child, his son William, a highly respected citizen of Dover and the present editor and proprietor of "The Delawarean."

While so much and actively engaged in politics, nevertheless Dr. Saulsbury found time to devote to the cause of education, in which he always had a keen interest; and it was owing more to him than to any other person that the Wilmington Conference Academy was founded and located in Dover. Of that institution he was a firm and lasting friend, and was President of its Board of Trustees from its organization till the time of his death. He was also a strong friend of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he was identified for a long time.

It is said that Dr. Saulsbury always prepared his own messages when he was Governor, and certain it is, that as a rule, he did his own thinking. While he, like all political leaders and firm natures, was warmly opposed by many of his fellow citizens, yet it must be admitted by all that he was one of the strongest men who have occupied the position of Governor in this State; and no one will deny his eminence in his profession, and his pre-eminence in the councils of his party.

JOHN W. HALL.

John W. Hall was Governor from 1879 to 1883. He was born January 1, 1817, in Frederica in this county, where he resided until his death. He was the son of John Hall, who died when the son was but nine years old. His first experience in business is said to have been with a merchant in Frederica into whose store he entered as a clerk upon the agreement to give his services for eight months to the merchant for twenty dollars and board, with the privilege of selling confectionery on his own account. It is stated that the savings from his confectionery business constituted the foundation of that business career which became wonderfully successful and prosperous. When 21 years of age he purchased the mercantile business of his employer, and in a few years had succeeded in building up a large and extensive trade. He was also largely engaged in the grain and lumber trade, and with the few vessels used in his business, his sound and quick judgment speedily grasped the fact that much profit might be derived from vessel property. He therefore became in years extensively engaged in that industry, and his vessels sailed the seas in various parts of the world, and could be found loading and unloading in many harbors. He was also largely interested in agricultural pursuits, and became the owner of many large and productive farms.

Politically John W. Hall was at one time a Whig, and later identified himself with the Democratic party. In 1866 he was elected State Senator, and in 1876 was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention. In 1874 he barely missed the nomination for Governor, and in 1878 was nominated by acclamation as a candidate for that office, and was

elected by a very large majority—there being but little active opposition. His Secretary was James L. Wolcott of Kent county. After the expiration of his gubernatorial term he devoted himself to the comforts of his home and to the management of his large business; and held no other public position during the remainder of his life except that of State Senator, to which place he was again called by his party in 1890. He died January 23, 1893, leaving an estate estimated to be worth about a half million dollars, the largest, with one exception, ever left by a citizen of Kent county. There survived him three children, all of whom had themselves become prosperous prior to the death of their father.

Governor Hall was thoroughly and pre-eminently a business man, of remarkably sound judgment and clear conception. He had the advantage only of schools that were local, and with his lack of means and assistance at the beginning of his career, his success in life may be regarded as almost phenomenal. He was in the truest sense a self-made man; and all things considered it may be truly said that the State has produced few, if any, more remarkable business men than John W. Hall. The methods and principles he used in business life he carried into his official stations, and his record both as legislator and as Chief Executive of the State, will bear the closest scrutiny and most careful examination. His appointments as Governor were made for the public good and for that only, and his entire official life reflects not only lasting honor upon his name, but also great credit on the State.

ROBERT J. REYNOLDS.

Robert J. Reynolds was born in Smyrna, Delaware, on March 17, 1838, but while a child his family moved to South Murderkill hundred, where he has continued to live till the present time. His father was Robert W. Reynolds. His business has been chiefly that of a farmer, and in that he has been very successful. He attended school for some time near at home and later in New York State. He was a member of the House of Representatives of the State in 1869 and State Treasurer from 1879 to 1882. He was elected Governor by the Democratic party in 1890 and held the office for four years. His Secretary of State was David

T. Marvel of Sussex county, till his appointment to the bench, and after that, John D. Hawkins of Kent county was chosen.

Governor Reynolds was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1892, and being Governor during the World's Fair at Chicago, had the honor of representing his State on "Delaware Day" at the great Exposition. The address made by the Governor on that occasion was exceedingly apt and appropriate and creditable to himself and his State. He has always been a very active and successful man in business, and a remarkably wide-awake and astute politician. He is one of the members of his party in the county who has for many years exerted a strong influence in political affairs, and is possessed of an unusual amount of that pluck and determination which in politics usually prove so effective. If there is one trait in his character more conspicuous than any other it may be said to be his intense loyalty to his friends, and many of his acts have been largely influenced by the respect and fealty he felt for those whom he regarded as his true friends and advisors, and in whom he reposed the most implicit confidence.

WILLIAM T. WATSON.

William T. Watson was the son of Bethuel and Ruth Watson, and the grandson of Governor Tharp. He was born in Milford, June 22, 1849. After attending the schools in his own town, he became a student at Washington College in Chestertown, Md. With the exception of a few years spent in Philadelphia, he has resided in Milford all his life. He was elected to the House of Representatives in this State in 1884, but a question being raised as to his eligibility because of absence from the State, he absolutely declined to take his seat, and Joshua Bennett at a special election held for that purpose, was chosen in his stead. He was elected a member of the State Senate in 1892, and at the second session of his term he was made Speaker. During his Senatorial term he succeeded to the office of Governor by reason of the death of Governor Joshua Marvil in April, 1895. His Secretary of State was J. Harvey Whiteman of New Castle county. Governor Watson with his staff attended the Atlanta Fair in 1895 on "Delaware Day," and re-

presented his State with much credit on that occasion. In public life he sought to subserve and promote the public interest, and when he once agreed upon a rule of conduct or a settled policy he rarely departed therefrom. He was careful in his official appointments, strong in his convictions, firm in his opinions, and lacked not the courage to assert and maintain them.

Such in brief outline are the histories of the Governors of this State chosen from Kent county. They have been men of affairs, men of action, men of brains and men of character. And such I believe have been the Governors from every county from John McKinley to Ebe W. Tunnell inclusive. Let us hope that those of the future may not be inferior to those of the past; that the purpose of each and all of them shall ever be to subserve the interests of all rather than the few, and to faithfully discharge the duties of this high office to which the citizens of the State may call them.

Governors from Sussex County.

By CHARLES W. WHILEY, Jr., Esq.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since 1797 the Executive chair of this State has been filled by eighteen men of Sussex. And when it can be truthfully added that during that long period not one of these eighteen men has been found unworthy of his high office, I scarcely think that I shall be charged with an unwarrantable local or county pride when I call that list a roll of honor. They sprang from sturdy stock—Anglo-Saxon for the most part, with here and there that wonderful Scotch-Irish strain that has left its mark and impress on every quarter of the globe. And so, old Sussex, proud of her sons, bids me unfold, hastily and inadequately though it must be, a brief record of their lives.

DANIEL ROGERS.

On the death of Cuning Bedford in 1797, Daniel Rogers, being then Speaker of the Senate, became, by virtue of his office, acting Governor. The outlines are but shadowy of this first figure that passes before us. As far as I can gather, he was born in Accomac county, Va., January 3, 1754. He came to Delaware some time prior to 1778, settling in Cedar Creek hundred and purchasing from Levin Crapper a farm of some six hundred acres with the well known mansion which afterwards passed into the possession of Lowder Layton, and was subsequently purchased by Governor Causey, and which is now the residence of William F. Causey, Esq.

Governor Rogers, who must have been an extensive land owner, built what is known as the Brick Granary on Cedar Creek, four miles from Milford on the road leading to

the draw-bridge. He also, and at his own cost, built the causeway at this point over Cedar Creek. He died February 2, 1806, and was buried on the home farm.

DAVID HALL.

David Hall, lawyer, soldier, judge, splendid type of the man whom the call of duty finds always ready, was chosen Governor in 1801. He was born at Lewes, January 4, 1752. Admitted to the bar in 1773, he was practising his profession when the struggle for independence began, and he at once enlisted as a private. I like to dwell upon this fact. When the storm bursts, this born organizer and leader steps into the ranks. There is no thought of self here—no dreams of personal advancement and distinction. The call is sounded, the law books are laid aside and the musket is shouldered, A little later, recruiting a company which became a part of Haslet's Regiment, he was commissioned Captain in the Continental service and led his company in the battles of Long Island and White Plains. In April, 1777, he was commissioned Colonel of a Regiment which, covering itself with imperishable glory, has left a name which is an inspiration still to every patriotic heart in Delaware. And to-day, as our boys are answering the call of the nation that their fathers made, they can have no greater incentive to devotion and self-sacrifice than the thought that they are doing what those fathers did in the brave days of the "Delaware Line."

No need to trace the career of Colonel Hall at the head of this renowned battalion. In victory and defeat it is a record of duty bravely done, of suffering nobly borne. At the battle of Germantown, Colonel Hall was so seriously wounded as to be incapacitated for further active service. When the war closes we find him practising his profession at Lewes, and as the half century mark of life is reached, he is called to the chair of the Executive. Shortly after the expiration of his term of office, he was appointed one of the Associate Judges under the Constitution of 1792. He died in his native town, September 18, 1817.

Visit the old town of Lewes, enter the burying ground of the Presbyterian Church, read the few words on the plain headstone at his grave, and ponder on the lesson of his life.

NATHANIEL MITCHELL.

In 1804, the people of Delaware selected for their Governor another hero of the war, Nathaniel Mitchell. He was born in 1753. His home was near Laurel in Sussex county. We find but meagre details of his revolutionary career—men of action are careless of their fame—but we catch hasty glimpses of him, here and there—flashlights that reveal the man. We see him at the head of his company in the thickest of the fight at Brandywine. We see him fretting his brave heart out as, prostrated by camp fever, he hears the news from Germantown. We find him under the hot fire at Monmouth; and we watch him, this grim soldier, bending to listen to the tale of the poor woman, widowed by the war, despoiled of her household goods, of little worth, perhaps, but they were all she had. We follow him and his little scouting party as they dash after the plunderers, overtake and disarm them, and gladden the humble home of the widow and the fatherless by the restoration of their little property. A simple story, this, of a strong man's gentle heart. Governor Mitchell became Adjutant of Colonel Dagworthy's battalion of militia; afterwards he was with Col. Patterson's battalion of the Flying Camp, later with Col. Grayson's additional Continental Regiment. In April, 1779, he was transferred to Col. Grist's Regiment and was subsequently Brigade Major and Inspector to Gen. Peter Muhlenburg. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress, 1786-'88. He died February 21, 1814, and was buried in the Cemetery of the old Brick Church near Laurel.

JOSEPH HASLET.

Joseph Haslet was born in Kent county. His father, Colonel John Haslet, of Revolutionary fame, was an Irishman by birth, and needless to add, a fighting man. He fell at Princeton, one instance among thousands where the soil of our country has been crimsoned by the blood of Erin's children, shed in defense of their adopted land. Joseph, his only son, was after the death of his father under the guardianship of William Killen, Chief Justice and, afterwards, Chancellor of Delaware. On attaining his majority he removed from Kent county to Cedar Creek hundred in Sussex. He was elected Governor in 1810. During the war of 1812, his

messages breathe the purest spirit of patriotism, "worthy," to quote from Niles' Register, "of the principles for which his father died at Princeton." In 1822 he was again elected Governor, the only instance of a second election to that office in the history of the State. He died on the 23rd of June in the following year.

DANIEL RODNEY.

In 1813, the old town of Lewes was again called upon by the people of Delaware to furnish a Governor, and she gave one worthy of the office and of his own honored name. Daniel Rodney, who was born September 10, 1764, was a typical "Lewestowner." Growing up by the sea and loving it, we find him while still a stripling master of a coaster. The war was not yet over, and the young skipper was twice captured by the British. Soon after the war he settled in business in his native town, marrying the daughter of Major Henry Fisher, a notable and an honored personality among the early pilots of the Delaware Bay and River. For three years he was one of the Lay Judges, and in 1814 was inaugurated Governor. He was elected to Congress in 1822, and was United States Senator for a short period, 1826-'27. The remainder of his long life was spent in the retirement of his home. He died September 2, 1846.

JOHN COLLINS.

John Collins was born in 1775, in Nanticoke hundred. We read in the annals of the neighborhood of how our Captain John Collins was possessed of "1465 acres of good land, 1108 acres of swamp and 14 slaves." On the allotment that became the share of his son, the future Chief Magistrate of the State lived a quiet, busy life, looking out upon his goodly heritage, his mills and forge, until his election as Governor. He died during the second year of his term, in April, 1822. Willard Hall, who had been Secretary of State under Governor Haslet, also held that office during the short administration of Governor Collins.

CALEB RODNEY.

Caleb Rodney was born at Lewes, April 29, 1767. On reaching his majority he engaged in mercantile business embracing a wholesale and retail trade. In those days

Lewes Creek was navigable for the larger class of coasting vessels, and the town was an important commercial point for Delaware. Rodney was a man of mark in his day and generation. In appearance tall, portly, with the dignified bearing of a gentleman of the old school, it is not difficult to call up a picture of him and his faithful servant, "Peters," whose attachment to his master is one of the traditions of Lewes. Governor Rodney's dwelling and store are still standing, and on the latter there may be seen a mark of a ball from a British ship made during the war of-1812. On the death of Governor Collins, Caleb Rodney, being at the time Speaker of the Senate, became acting Governor, serving through the remainder of the term. He died April 29, 1840, that day being the 73rd anniversary of his birth. His remains lie in St. Peter's Churchyard within a short distance of both the house and store in which he passed the greater part of his life.

SAMUEL PAYNTER.

The name of Samuel Paynter, like that of Rodney, recalls a type that, in the rush and bustle of our present day life, is fast fading away. And it is too good a one to lose, for the country merchant of Delaware was a power both in Church and State. To the farmers and villagers around him he was counsel and banker in one. And so it was not all a matter of barter and trade with him, and even in the trading and the barter, there was the dignity of the old time gentleman. He took an active part in politics, and let it here be said that when he ceased to take an active part, it was so much the worse for politics. When he stepped out, the vote buyer stepped in. Frequently his influence, widening, broke through his local environment and the highest offices of public trust came to him unsolicited. So it was with Samuel Paynter. Born in 1768 at the family estate at Paynter's Drawbridge in Sussex, appointed Associate Judge in 1818, he was elected Governor in 1823. In 1844 he was chosen a Representative in the Legislature. Honored of all men, he died October 2, 1845, and his last resting place is in that little village churchyard of St. Peter's at Lewes.

DANIEL HAZZARD.

Daniel Hazzard was born on Broadkilm Neck, May 18, 1781. During the war of 1812 he was an Ensign in Captain Peter Wright's Company. His first office, in early life, was that of Justice of the Peace. He was elected Governor in 1829, and State Senator in 1834. Ten years later he was appointed Associate Judge, resigning in 1847, being the last of the Lay Judges in this State. In 1852, he was chosen as a member of the Constitutional Convention. He was a man of broad sympathies and of strong and vigorous intellect. Old men love to talk of his acts of generosity and kindness, and the pleasant, handsome face and that stalwart figure, are an abiding memory in the town of Milton. He died July 8, 1864.

WILLIAM B. COOPER.

William B. Cooper, who was chosen Governor at the election in 1840, was born near what is known as Broad Creek Bridge, not far from the present town of Laurel, December 16, 1771. His picture presented to the State by his granddaughter, represents him at the age of fifty-nine. He was made an Associate Judge in 1817. He was a man of great force of character, polished in manners, with intellectual gifts of a high order, and an agreeable, and indeed, fascinating conversationalist. He died April 27, 1849.

JOSEPH MAULL.

In 1846, the sudden death of Governor Stockton called to the Executive's chair Dr. Joseph Maull who was the Speaker of the Senate. Governor Maull was born in Pilot Town Bank, at Lewes, September 6, 1781. He studied medicine under Dr. Wolfe, a well known practitioner of that day, whose house, still standing, is within a stone's throw of the residence of Governor Maull's niece. The greater part of Dr. Maull's professional life was spent in Broadkilm hundred. He was Governor less than two months, his death, which occurred May 3, 1846, coming without warning. It was a strange fatality that one term should have witnessed two Governors stricken down by heart disease, and the succession to the office of two Speakers, one of the Senate and the other of the House.

WILLIAM H. ROSS.

When William H. Ross was elected in 1850, Governor of the State, he was only 36 years of age—young shoulders for such responsibilities—but he brought with him qualifications and attainments fitting for his task. He was a man of strong natural ability, supplemented by extensive reading and broadened by foreign travel. Early in life he had learned the secret of success in many things, and what his hand attempted was, as a rule, accomplished. He was born at Laurel, June 2, 1814, and was educated there and at Claremont Academy in Pennsylvania. In 1836, he accompanied his father through England, Scotland and Ireland. The year of 1837 was spent in business in Adams county, Ill. He then returned to Laurel, remaining there until 1845, when he removed to Seaford, which became his permanent home. Some years after his term of office as Governor had expired he again visited Europe, this time traveling on the continent.

PETER F. CAUSEY.

Peter F. Causey, who was chosen Governor in 1854, was born near Bridgeville, January 11, 1801. The exercise of the power of appointment has been heretofore in the history of our State one of the most important functions of the Governor's office. For good or for evil that power has been largely transferred to the people. But until to-day it has been a crucial test of the fitness of the Executive for his trust. How well Governor Causey stood that test can be shown by recalling a few of the commissions that came from his hand. Samuel M. Harrington, Chief Justice and afterwards Chancellor; Edward W. Gilpin, Chief Justice on the appointment of Judge Harrington to the Chancellorship; Joseph P. Comegys, United States Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John M. Clayton, and John W. Houston, Associate Judge. Prior to his election as Governor, Peter F. Causey had been Representative and State Senator; he was a delegate to the National Convention which nominated General Harrison to the Presidency, and to the one which nominated Henry Clay. He closed his useful life February 15, 1871.

WILLIAM CANNON.

William Cannon was born near Bridgville, March 15, 1809. He affords a striking example of the power of will and energy alone to carve out a successful career both in public and private life. With only the meagre equipment furnished by a small country school, he became a force in the politics of his State and attained the highest office in its gift. Twice elected Representative in the General Assembly—1844 and 1846—appointed State Treasurer in 1851, he was country's ordeal, the time of sectional strife and bitter animosities, now gone, thank God, forever. Governor Cannon died in office March 1, 1865.

JAMES PONDER.

James Ponder was born at Milton, October 31, 1819. His school days were passed at Milton, Lewes and Georgetown. In his twenty-fourth year he was taken into partnership by his father, who was largely engaged in the shipping of grain, lumber, etc., as well as in vessel building. Governor Ponder afterwards became interested to a considerable extent in vessel property. Always an active politician, he was elected to the General Assembly in 1856. In 1864 he was chosen for the State Senate and was elected Speaker in 1867. He was elected Governor in 1870. It has been truly said of him that while "a man of affairs and successful in business, he never lost touch with the plain people of his State. He belonged to that class, so rapidly disappearing from our midst, that serves as a connecting link between capital and labor—the class that furnishes the strongest bulwark against communism and populism." He died November 5, 1897.

CHARLES C. STOCKLEY.

"One person with a belief," said England's great economist, "is a social power equal to ninety-nine who have only interests." We have here, I think, an explanation of the potent influence of Charles C. Stockley, for a long series of years, in the politics of his State. Strength of conviction and the courage of it, have been through life his leading characteristics. Sincerity, a virtue, we are told, rare with politicians, will be conceded to him by political friend and

foe. He has given sturdy blows, but never a stealthy one. Appointed County Treasurer in 1852, elected Sheriff of his county in 1856, State Senator in 1873, Speaker for two years after, Governor in 1882, and appointed Register of Wills for Sussex in 1891. He has received many honors from his State and party, and to State and party he has given faithful service. And he has been true to old Sussex. Her public schools, her railroads, and all that makes for progress and enlightenment, have found in him a steadfast friend. Governor Stockley was born in Sussex county, November 6, 1819.

JOSHUA H. MARVIL.

Joshua H. Marvil was born in Little Creek hundred, Sussex county, September 3, 1825. When he was nine years of age he lost his father and it was a hard struggle on the part of his brave and devoted mother to maintain the six children that were left to her unaided care. So pressing were the home duties, so constant the labor on the farm that young Marvil had little opportunity for instruction at the school house three miles away. But there was a latent energy in the boy that was bound to develop and overcome one by one the obstacles to success. When he was twenty years of age he became a sailor, but soon after learned the trade of shipbuilding. In his 28th year he began the manufacture of agricultural implements. Success soon followed. In 1870 he commenced his business of manufacturing crates and baskets, which became one of the largest industries in the county. He was elected Governor in 1894. Soon after his inauguration there were rumors of failing health, and on the 8th day of April, 1895, he died. At that moment party strife was hushed, party difference forgotten, and men of every shade of political opinion paid their tribute to the memory of a good man.

EBE W. TUNNELL.

The presence of our presiding officer enjoins upon me a reticence in relation to the latest Governor from Sussex that I have not felt called upon to observe in other cases. And it is perhaps as well that it should be so; for long years of friendship might make my words too warm, and turn a

chronicle into a eulogy. He will pardon me, however, if I say that reaching the last name on my list I have no compunctions of conscience for having, at the commencement, declared that list a roll of honor.

NOTE:—Ebe W. Tunnell was born at Blackwater, Sussex county, December 31, 1844; his early education was received at the public schools of Milford and Lewes. He engaged in mercantile business after leaving school. Elected to the Legislature in 1870; appointed Clerk of the Peace for Sussex county in 1886; candidate for Governor in 1894; elected Governor in 1896.

Presentation Address.

By HON. BENJAMIN A. HAZELL.

Mr. Chairman:

The very pleasant duty has been assigned me by the Building Committee to present to you, and through you to the State, the portraits of a goodly number of those whom the State has honored, and who, in their turn, have honored the State as her Chief Executives.

The following is the list of portraits received and the names of the donors :

Thomas McKean, steel engraving, presented by Henry C. Conrad.

George Read, crayon portrait, presented by Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia.

John Dickinson, crayon portrait, presented by Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia.

Joshua Clayton, oil portrait, presented by Joshua Clayton of Thomas, Adelaide Young, Jeanette M. Young, Adelaide Y. Ellison, Fannie Clayton Williams, Mary Clayton Price, Dr. Joshua Clayton, T. Edgar Clayton and Beulah Clayton.

Gunning Bedford, crayon portrait, presented by Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia.

Richard Bassett, photograph, presented by his grandson, Hon. Thomas F. Bayard.

Daniel Rodney, crayon portrait, presented by Mrs. Daniel Rodney King.

Samuel Paynter, crayon portrait, presented by his grandchildren, Edwin R. Paynter and Mrs. E. R. Wright.

Charles Polk, crayon portrait, presented by his sons, Charles Polk, William A. Polk, and Theodore L. Polk.

David Hazzard, oil painting, presented by his grandson, David Hazzard Wolfe.

Cornelius P. Comegys, oil painting, presented by his son, Hon. Benjamin B. Comegys.

William Temple, crayon portrait, presented by his son, R. L. Temple.

William Tharp, crayon portrait, presented by his grandson, Hon. William Tharp Watson.

William H. Ross, pastel portrait, presented by his sons, James J. Ross, Willie M. Ross and Edwin C. Ross.

Joseph Maull, silhouette, presented by his grand-nephew, Charles H. Atkins.

Peter F. Causey, crayon portrait, presented by his sons, W. F. Causey, John W. Causey and Peter F. Causey, Jr.

William Cannon, crayon portrait, presented by his widow, Margaret A. Cannon, and his son, Henry P. Cannon.

Gove Saulsbury, crayon portrait, presented by his son, William Saulsbury.

James Ponder, crayon portrait, presented by his son, James W. Ponder.

John P. Cochran, pastel portrait, presented personally.

John W. Hall, oil painting, presented by his children, Samuel W. Hall, John W. Hall, Jr., and Carrie C. Lister.

Charles C. Stockley, crayon portrait, presented by his daughter, Hannah E. Paynter.

Benjamin F. Biggs, crayon portrait, presented by his son, Hon. John Biggs.

Robert J. Reynolds, crayon portrait, presented personally.

Joshua H. Marvil, crayon portrait, presented by his son, J. Dallas Marvil.

William T. Watson, crayon portrait, presented personally.

Ebe W. Tunnell, crayon portrait, presented personally.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I wish in the name of the Committee to extend our thanks to those of you who have survived the wreck of time and are with us to-day in the flesh, participating with us on this memorable occasion, for the example you have this day set for your successors to follow for all time to come, and we would most heartily thank the descendants of those who have passed over the silent river into the "Land of the Leal," for their kindness and generosity in presenting the State with pictures of their illustrious sires, whose mute lips will henceforth speak from the walls of this Capitol building to generations yet to come, instructing them in the folk lore and teaching them the early history of our beloved State, which shines forth to-day the brightest star in the galaxy of the sisterhood of States, that from the the greatest nation on the earth, the wonder, the admiration and the envy of the civilized world. And we would render honor to whom honor is due by extending thanks to Henry C. Conrad, Esq., to whose untiring zeal and energy we are indebted for much, very much, that makes this day possible, and we should fail in our duty did we neglect to thank the

Sons of Delaware of Philadelphia, whose patriotism and love of native heath have prompted them to present the portraits of Bedford, Dickinson and Read. We very much regret our inability to secure the entire list of those who have guided the helm of State as Governors of this Commonwealth; but fifteen, alas, have left no pictures behind them other than the glorious record of duty well performed, of their sacrifices and their devotion to the cause of human liberty; while three others have pictures extant, which we hope soon to procure and add to this collection.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there seems nothing else for me to do but to ask you in the name of the State to accept the trust and custodianship of this new acquisition to the State's wealth, and as they adorn your rooms may you ever realize their silent presence.

Address of Acceptance.

By HON. THOMAS F. BAYARD.*

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hazell representing the Legislature,
Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Delawareans:

The task which has been assigned to me is exceedingly pleasant. It brings me to the capital of my native State, to the scenes which I have loved since my early childhood. Standing in these last years of the dying century, with the world convulsed, with threats of ruin and disaster, some nations dying and others rising anew, it is refreshing to me to come here and feel that I am free from the anxieties of my country. My first duty is to render thanks. The State of Delaware is indebted to those gentlemen who filled the office of Chief Magistrate. The Legislature will take good care to see that what has been read here this afternoon will never be forgotten by future generations. They will see that this history of the fair and honest men of the State is preserved. The thanks of the community are due to our friend Mr. Conrad. We are indebted to his thoughtfulness. His spirit has been wholly for the public. He has done a great service and has done it ably and modestly, and our thanks will be rendered to him.

Not one word need be added to what has been said in regard to the men whose names have been read here this afternoon. There are one or two reflections which have impressed me as my life has gone on in this country and also in other countries. The relative importance of large and small States is something of which I desire to speak. I do not mean to lessen the importance of large empires or lessen the responsibilities of any citizen of a small community. In Europe the greatest changes of government have had for their theatres of action the very smallest States. Think what

influence the Prince of Orange exerted over the history of the civilized world. The "Little Low Country," the Netherlands, Holland, the last place on earth which a soldier, sailor, statesman or engineer would have selected for a naval, military or moral conflict. Not in Delaware is there a single important strategic position. This is also so of Holland, but it was chosen by the Prince of Orange when he met the ferocious King of Spain, Philip II. It was a struggle for the freedom of religious conscience. On those flat sands, with scanty population and ill-fed people that wonderful struggle was kept up for the benefit of the whole world. One cannot visit those scenes without thinking what can be done by a scanty handful of men; nay, by one man.

Mr. Bayard spoke about Spain's vanity and said it was the blind and arrogant pride of the country which pressed it to destruction.

I have wished and so have you, the speaker continued, that the State of Delaware had more territory and more people, but the State with its limited territory and population has had a splendid record in the past 125 years, during which time it has stood as a State and prospered. It has rendered great service to the United States, her honored sons taking part in many important national affairs.

Mr. Bayard referred to John Dickinson, whose name has been mentioned among the list of Governors, as one of the greatest men of the country at one time. His history was reviewed, and Mr. Bayard showed how, after completing his education in London, he came to this country and wrote a series of letters in which he showed the people how they were being oppressed. The effect of the letters was most remarkable. They were not only published here, but also in European countries, Benjamin Franklin being instrumental in publishing them abroad. As an evidence of their merit Voltaire praised them most highly. The hearts of our people were fed and informed by this Kent county gentleman. He filled the gap of argument and showed where the colonies were being imposed upon. Mr. Bayard said he believed at one time Mr. Dickinson was the most important man in the American colonies. He boldly, frankly, ably did his duty in that day. Through the trying times of

the country Dickinson remained faithful to his convictions. When the struggle of the colonies came he placed himself at the head of a regiment, but the smaller politicians—and they were about in those days—were jealous and forced him from his command. He came to Kent county, but not to sulk. He enlisted as a private soldier and carried his musket at the battle of Brandywine. After that he was appointed a brigadier general. He found he had no military abilities, however, but served his country in other ways, afterward becoming Governor. He was of service to the country by entering the Continental Congress as a delegate from Delaware. He was instrumental in having the States unite for their protection and preservation.

Mr. Bayard referred to John Dickinson's modest grave in the Friends' burying ground at Fourth and West streets, Wilmington. There is nothing to mark it, he said, save a small stone scarcely eight inches long and three inches wide, almost hidden from view by the grass, and bearing the inscription "J. D."

John Dickinson was laid at rest about the year 1808, after he had seen the constitution of the United States ratified. A few years afterward war broke out with England. It was an attempt to make unsafe our commerce upon the seas, and we went into the war for our own safety. An opportunity for peace arose and a son-in-law of one of the men whose portrait hangs upon the walls was delegated to negotiate a treaty with the other country. He was one of the chief factors in the Treaty of Ghent, which was signed in 1815. At that time Napoleon Bonaparte had broken loose in Europe, and that treaty was just made in time. The New England States had become dissatisfied. A convention was held at Hartford and it was decided to notify the Congress at Washington that the New England States would secede from the Union. The Treaty of Ghent came just in time to prevent this and to save the Union and bind the States closer together. This is a case in which one of your own men performed a great service for the country and you cannot overestimate his worth.

In the churchyard here is the tomb of John M. Clayton. There had been for some time an exasperating, cruel war

with Spain. The trouble was over a desire for freedom of transportation from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. To that this son of Delaware addressed himself, and the result was the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which was ratified by a large majority of Congress. As time went on it became my duty to stand in the place occupied by John M. Clayton, and I realize more fully his great forethought and integrity and worth to his country. The treaty was the strongest moral alliance between the two countries that neither should exercise any political influence in Central America, but neutralize it and advance the commercial interests of the world. The good John M. Clayton did his country has not ceased. Small minded men have assailed the treaty, but it stands today as it did when the ink was scarcely dry under Clayton's signature.

Think of what America has been called upon to meet—the jealousy of almost united Europe and its desire to prevent the Republic from calling to account the country which has stained with the blood of the native population the Island of Cuba. These countries would make a united demonstration and have our coast lined with their ships to prevent what we have determined to do, had it not been for certain strong influences. When the proposition of the of the European combination was made the English tongue reached the heart of every Englishman, as it does in this country, and England said she would take no part in restraining this country in a conflict in which she had no interest. This refusal on the part of England caused the other countries to reflect.

No English treaty had been abrogated, except the Canadian reciprocity treaty, and that, though only partially, is regretted.

I love to speak of the great service done the country by this little State. I hope that we may always adhere to the Delaware doctrine; Statesmanship has no use for profligate politics and profligate politics have no connection with Statesmanship. Honesty and probity shall always be the ruling forces in the politics of Delaware.

*The death of Mr. Bayard since the meeting precluded the possibility of securing the full text of his address. The above synopsis was furnished by Hon Benjamin A. Hazell.

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